

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1, 9, 18, 20, 28, and 30-32 are amended. Claims 2, 11-17, 19, 21-27, 29, and 33 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-10, 20, 28, and 30-32 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 9, 22, and 29 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 2. Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-8 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim (claim 1). Claim 10 depends from claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 22. Claim 20 depends from claim 18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 29. Claims 30-32 depend from claim 28. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 28 and 30-32 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103

As part of this Response, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been canceled or amendments have been made to incorporate allowable claims into either the rejected claim or a claim from which the rejected claim depends. These cancellations and amendments have been made in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims. These cancellations and amendments have not been made because Applicant agrees with the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103, and should not be interpreted as having been made because Applicant agrees with the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. Additionally, these cancellations and amendments have not been made to overcome, and should not be interpreted as having been made to overcome, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications.


Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 3-10, 20, 28, and 30-32 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/22/04

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